Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

Plan for 2014-15

saskatchewan.ca

Government of Saskatchewan

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

As Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, it is my pleasure to present our Plan for 2014-15.

The Government's Direction and Budget for 2014-15 are built on the principle of *Steady Growth* to support a continued focus on sound economic growth and shared prosperity.

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is investing in the infrastructure that will meet the goals of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. A safe and seamless transportation network is the foundation of current and future growth and will secure a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Multi-year improvements to the provincial highway network provide for the increased development, exports, and competitiveness that support a growing Saskatchewan. With a budget of $664.5 million, the Ministry will assist in capturing the opportunities for growth while maintaining the four-year commitment of investing $2.2 billion in Highways and Infrastructure.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2014-15 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government is committed to establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, work and raise a family.

In October 2013, the first progress report on the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* was released. Saskatchewan's growth is strong and steady. As Saskatchewan continues to move forward, the Government will support growth in 2014-15 through investing in people and needed infrastructure, encouraging economic growth, and through sound policy and financial decisions.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services to these priorities and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's citizens.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2014-15 annual reports. This supports Government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is to optimize the role of transportation as it relates to the economic and social development of Saskatchewan.

OBJECTIVE: Address the infrastructure deficit

Strategy

Ensure consistent and reliable service through a safe and secure transportation network.

Key Actions

- Improve the road condition of the transportation network.
  - Repave 300 km on Saskatchewan's highways.
  - Replace 25 bridges on Saskatchewan's highways including nine bridges that will be replaced with culverts.
  - Make major repairs on five bridges.
- Commence upgrading roads to a supergrid structure on:
  - Highway 361 junction of Highway 9 east to Alida for 31 km; and,
  - Highway 47, twenty km north of Stoughton for 5.5 km.
- Replace or repair aging culvert and wood box drainage structures.
- Invest $25.5 million through Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) - a partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) - for municipal road and bridge upgrades.
- Support community airports through the Community Airport Partnership Program, which results in a $1.4 million investment for improvements to small airports.
- Invest $37.1 million in the North to improve and maintain infrastructure.
- Invest $5.0 million through the Safety Improvement Program for safety warranted projects.
- Continue to participate in "Road Check" and "Operation Air Brake" annual international safety inspection events and plan strategic enforcement activities to reduce commercial vehicle safety violations.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridges

OBJECTIVE: Address the current challenges of population and economic growth

Strategy

Support an efficient transportation network that connects Saskatchewan people and goods to the provincial, national and global markets.

Key Actions

- Construct bypasses to improve traffic flow.
  - Continue to build the West Regina Bypass between Highway 1 and Highway 11.
- Upgrade highways to create primary weight corridors.
  - Complete construction on 150 km of rural provincial highways;
  - Continue construction of the St. Louis Bridge on Highway 2; and,
  - The Ministry will begin construction of twinning on Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to Clavet for 19.5 km; and, pre-construction on:
    - Highway 7 west of Saskatoon to Delisle for 24 km;
    - Highway 39 east of Estevan to Bienfait for 8 km; and,
    - Highway 6 and 39 twinning from Regina to Estevan.
  - In addition to the pre-construction work for twinning plans announced in June of 2013, the province is also moving forward on pre-construction work for the future passing lanes on Highway 7 from Delisle to Rosetown;
- Invest in urban highway projects and key planning studies to improve efficiency on provincial highways through major urban centres.
  - Provide capital funding for:
    - Regina to invest in the rehabilitation of the Victoria Avenue bridge; and,
    - Lloydminster to complete the rehabilitation of Highway 16.
- Work within the New West Partnership and the Manitoba/Saskatchewan Memorandum of Understanding to harmonize trucking regulations and continue to remove red tape.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Victoria Park, Downtown Regina

OBJECTIVE: Prepare for future growth

Strategy

Invest in transportation enhancements to improve efficiencies for future needs.

Key Actions

- Work with SaskBuilds to explore delivery options and timing for the construction of a Regina Bypass.
- Continue the grading work for the Highway 39 Estevan Bypass.
- Develop a high clearance corridor to meet future demands by continuing multi-year improvements to Highway 15 between Kenaston and Simpson.
- Continue discussions with the uranium industry for partnership on the construction of 52 km of Highway 914. This will create an alternative re-supply route to the current Highway 905 corridor and serve both the uranium industry and other northern community interests in the Athabasca Basin.
- Work collaboratively with other ministries to develop solutions addressing grain transportation issues.
- Through the New West Partnership develop and implement a Western Region logistics and supply chain strategy/action plan including consultation with the federal government, Alberta, British Columbia, industry and other stakeholders to improve performance of the transportation network.
- Work with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) to:
  - Ensure the Ministry's Geographic Information Systems capabilities are compatible with SGI permitting activities to integrate mapping with Saskatchewan's on-line permitting system by 2015; and,
  - Collaborate for the development of single-window permitting across the western provinces by 2020.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Enterprise Saskatchewan, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

OBJECTIVE: To deliver responsive and responsible government

Strategy

Provide value through continued investment in organizational best practices.

Key Actions

- Support winter maintenance services through the Winter Night Surveillance program by providing overnight winter road surveillance and minor winter maintenance on high volume highways around and to major urban centres.
- Continue to preserve and improve the condition of the provincial highway system through investing $133.5 million for preventative maintenance on provincial highways and bridges.
- Deliver public crossing and locomotive inspection programs for provincially regulated rail lines and shortline companies.
- Work with provincial ministries, agencies, municipalities and the federal government to maximize federal investment from the New Building Canada Plan in Saskatchewan's provincial and municipal infrastructure.
- Make improvements in the delivery of programs and services through the adoption of methodologies such as LEAN.
- Continue the multi-year program review process to ensure programs and services provided by the Ministry are delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible and are aligned to government priorities.
- Develop and implement an Occupational Health and Safety strategic plan for the next one to five years to continue the Ministry's path towards Mission Zero.
- Continue to improve the accessibility and quality of information for travellers through the Highway Hotline.
- Reinforce safe driving practices and "mini blizzard" awareness for both public and worker safety around snowplows through the delivery of the annual Snow Zone campaign.
- Develop and implement a culture sustainment plan to ensure the Ministry's culture is aligned with the Ministry's and Government's core values.

Performance Measures

Measure

Percentage of rutting on the National Highway System with less than 10 millimetres (mm) of rutting.

Year	% less than 10 mm	% greater than 10 mm
2012	92%	8%
2013	94%	6%

Source: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure – Technical Standards Branch

Measure Description

- This measure aligns with the Ministry's strategy to ensure consistent and reliable service through a safe and secure transportation network.
- The Ministry's target is to have 94 per cent of the National Highway System (NHS) with less than 10 millimetres of rutting.
- Pavement rutting is the surface distortions in the wheel paths caused by either wear or heavy loads, or a combination of the two.
- Pavement surface ruts can pose a major safety concern.
- Ruts affect the handling of a vehicle and can result in hydroplaning when filled with water.
- Rutting information is collected annually as part of the Ministry's surface distress surveys.
- Depending on the underlying causes, moderate to severe rutting may trigger preservation or rehabilitation treatments.
- The Ministry will consider preservation or rehabilitation treatments when the measured wheel path ruts for a section of roadway become deeper than 10 mm.
- Severe rutting in an isolated or localized location is typically repaired by Ministry maintenance crews.

Measure

Continue to measure public opinion about the condition of the provincial highways.

- 59 per cent of respondents think the overall provincial highway system is in good condition with some bad areas.

Source: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure – Communications Branch

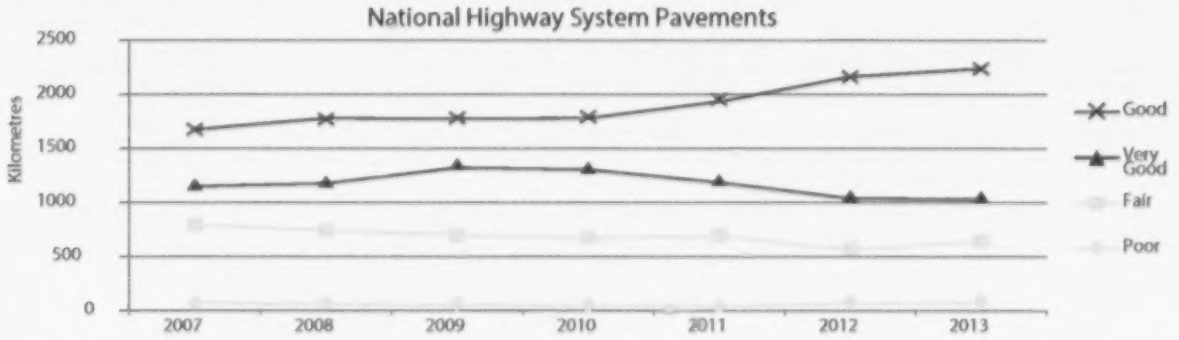
Measure Description

- The Ministry conducted a poll of 804 Saskatchewan residents in December 2013 to measure customer satisfaction with regards to the condition of the overall provincial highway system.
- The Ministry plans to continue to conduct this survey on an annual basis.

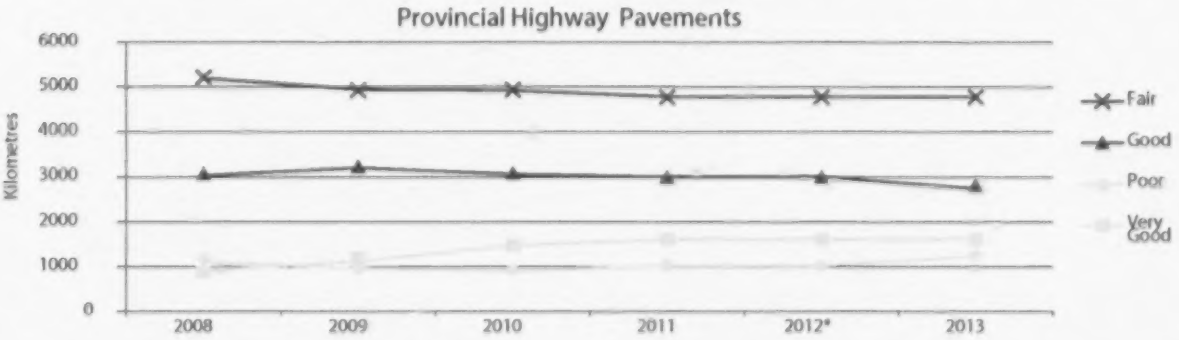
Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, Broadway Bridge

Measure

Pavement Condition Report Card: rating of paved highway networks.



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Very Good	31%	31%	34%	34%	31%	27%	26%
Good	45%	47%	46%	47%	50%	57%	56%
Fair	21%	20%	18%	18%	18%	15%	16%
Poor	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*	2013
Very Good	7%	9%	11%	14%	15%	15%	16%
Good	29%	30%	31%	29%	29%	29%	26%
Fair	52%	51%	48%	48%	46%	46%	46%
Poor	12%	11%	9%	9%	10%	10%	12%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**2012 information was not collected for all roads, thus 2011 information has been used for 2012.*
Source: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure – Technical Standards Branch

Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Mosaic Belle Plaine site

Measure Description

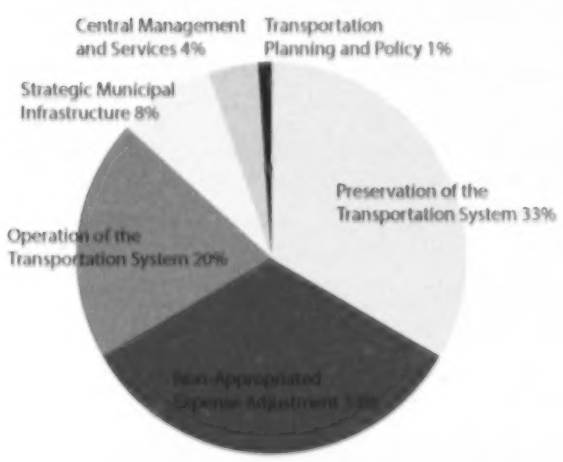
- These measures align with the Ministry's strategy to ensure consistent and reliable service through a safe and secure transportation network.
- The Ministry's target is to have the NHS rated at 85 per cent good or very good and have less than two per cent poor.
- These measures are significant to the Ministry as they show the results of an effective maintenance and repaving program. Properly maintained highways enhance public safety and ensure the transportation system supports a fully-functioning economy.
- The Ministry is responsible for managing the highway network responsibly within available resources, with a focus on safety and efficiency. There are 14,913 km of paved highways in Saskatchewan, including the NHS highways.
- The NHS is the backbone of Saskatchewan's road network. This system is critical to the province's economic prosperity. The NHS includes Highway 1, 11, 16, and sections of 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 39.
- The Ministry uses measures that incorporate vibration, noise, bumps and dips in the road to measure its condition. This information determines when repaving or other pavement preservation treatments are needed.
- To maximize the benefit of the investment in preserving highways, it is critical for the Ministry to focus on keeping good highways in good condition for as long as possible.
- Balancing competing demands on the highway network for the allocation of scarce resources is a major challenge facing the Ministry. The Ministry manages risks such as contractor progress, fluctuating input costs and the length of the construction season, which are outside the Ministry's control, but influence the results of this measure.
- Find a link to the NHS map and others at: http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-maps/

Financial Summary

2014-15 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	18,394
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	36,478
Operation of Transportation System	87,982
Preservation of Transportation System	144,515
Transportation Planning and Policy	3,262
Custom Work Activity	---
Infrastructure and Equipment Capital	373,832
Total Appropriation	**664,463**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(373,832)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	143,623
Total Expense	**434,254**
FTE Staff Complement	**1,330.0**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Total Expense Budget


Central Management and Services 4%
Transportation Planning and Policy 1%
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure 8%
Preservation of the Transportation System 33%
Operation of the Transportation System 20%

Total Capital Investment

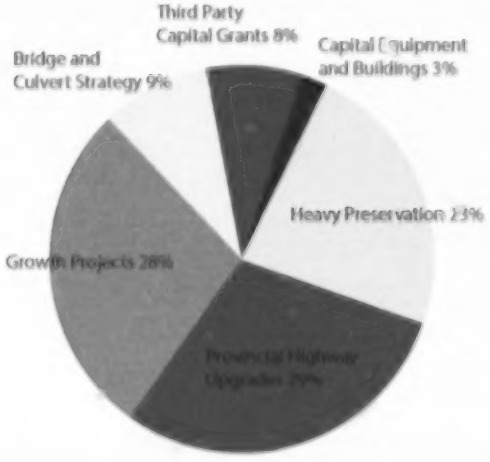

Third Party Capital Grants 8%
Capital Equipment and Buildings 3%
Bridge and Culvert Strategy 9%
Heavy Preservation 23%
Growth Projects 28%

Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, photo by Vicki East, Rafferty Reservoir

Highlights

2014-15 Budget Highlights:

- The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has a total budget of $664.5 million including a transportation capital investment of $373.8 million. The 2014-15 budget allows the Ministry to respond to the Growth Plan through continuing to deliver projects that support current and future growth while reducing the infrastructure deficit.
- The Ministry will continue to preserve and improve the condition of the provincial highway system through investments including:
  - $133.5 million for preventative maintenance on provincial highways and bridges; and,
  - $95.0 million for Heavy Preservation which involves repaving of at least 300 km of highways.
- $118.0 million will be invested in the rural provincial highway system for highway upgrades and improved access and safety.
- $113.2 million for major projects supporting the Growth Plan, including:
  - Continue the grading work for the Highway 39 Estevan Bypass;
  - Begin construction on new twinning lanes for Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to Clavet for 19.5 km; and pre-construction twinning work on:
    - Highway 7 west of Saskatoon to Delisle for 24 km;
    - Highway 39 east of Estevan to Bienfait for 8 km; and,
    - Highway 6 and 39 twinning from Regina to Estevan.
  - In addition to the pre-construction work for twinning plans announced in June of 2013, the province is also moving forward on pre-construction work for the future passing lanes on Highway 7 from Delisle to Rosetown;
  - Continued work on the West Regina Bypass, connecting the Global Transportation Hub to the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 11; and,
  - Continuing the due diligence for a major P3 initiative at Regina that would include a new Bypass.
- In its continuing effort to address the infrastructure deficit, the Ministry will invest $37.6 million in bridges and culverts; this includes continued work on the replacement of the St. Louis Bridge.
- The Ministry will invest $25.5 million through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program that will enhance or preserve rural municipal transportation infrastructure.
- The Urban Highway Connector Program will invest $8.4 million towards capital projects and operations and maintenance to improve the safe and efficient movement of people and goods by enhancing traffic flow through urban municipalities on urban highway connectors.

For More Information

For more information on the Ministry's programs, please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/ministries/highways-and-infrastructure.

Front Page Photo Credits

Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Over the Hill Orchards*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
Photographer, Charles Melnick	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*